



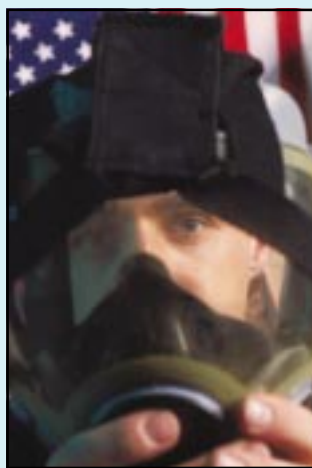
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Vol. 47, No. 15 • 374th Airlift Wing • Yokota Air Base, Japan • Friday, April 28, 2006

## Ready for the fight



**Left, Airman 1st Class Jonathan Marion, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, inspects a chemical agent monitor. The CAM is used to detect chemical agents on personnel and equipment.**



photos by Val Gempis

**Right, Staff Sgt. Brian Fagan, 374th CES, inspects a gas mask for serviceability, looking for leaks, cracks or holes. He and Airman Marion are readiness technicians. Their flight also trains personnel in nuclear, biological and chemical defense and recovery.**

## Japan's holiday 'Golden Week' kicks off soon

**By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh**  
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Today begins the string of Japanese holidays known as Golden Week, which runs through May 8.

Golden Week is comprised of Greenery Day on April 29, Constitution Day on May 3, National Holiday on May 4 and Children's Day on May 5.

"This year marks Super Golden Week because of how the calendar falls," said Yasuko Birkhead, Japanese Culture Consultant at the Family Support Center. "Japanese employees could have up to nine days off."

The holidays created a time frame for many companies, schools and government offices to close for the week, similar to the time period between Christmas and New Year's Day, said Mrs. Birkhead.

The first holiday, Greenery Day, is for the former Emperor Showa's birthday. His birthday has been celebrated since he took over the emperor's throne in 1926. After his death in 1989, the day was changed to Greenery Day to honor his love of the environment and nature.

Constitution Day is the second holiday and marks the date of Japan's post-World War II constitution.

May 4 is the known as an "in-between holiday" because it currently does not have an actual designation, but serves as a bridge between Constitution Day and Children's Day on May 5.

Children's Day marks the semi-official end to Golden Week. Originally celebrated as Boy's Festival, families pray for the health and future success of their sons by hanging up carp streamers and displaying samurai dolls, both symbolizing strength, power and success in life. This holiday has been celebrated for more than 100 years.

"Next year, the names will slightly change," said Mrs. Birkhead. "Greenery Day will move to May 4 and the holiday on April 29 will be known as Showa Day."

During Golden Week, traveling will take longer than usual. Community members should allot additional time for travel whenever travelling off base throughout the upcoming week.

## Special Olympians show skills at annual games

**By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik**  
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Kanto Plain Special Olympics will be held here May 13 and 14.

Athletes have been competing in the games since 1980 when the Noncommissioned Officers Association first established the Kanto Plain Olympics here. This year marks the games' 27th anniversary.

This year's games will bring approximately 400 athletes from all over Japan. Both Japanese and Department of Defense Dependents Schools athletes will be competing.

Events include basketball, the 50 and 100-meter dash, 200 and 400-meter runs, 4x100 meter relay, standing long jump, bowling, 1-mile run, softball throw and swimming.

"The competition here is pretty strict compared to other bases that participate in sponsoring Special Olympics," said Staff Sgt. Gerald Morey, Special Olympics committee vice-president. "All the statistics from the Kanto Plain games are used by the athletes to qualify for the International Special Olympics, so the competitions are very stringent to meet the standards of those games."

The event requires a lot of logistical planning that began back in January.

"We usually start planning around the fall timeframe but this year we were a bit delayed due to deployments and preparation and execution of the Operational Readiness Inspection," said Tech. Sgt. Melody

Tice-Baird, Special Olympics committee president. "A long-time supporter of the games, Tetsuya Azuma, unfortunately became ill and was hospitalized in November. He passed away this February and his contributions to support the games over the years are already missed. He loved seeing the athletes' joy when competing here every year."

Along with the advance planning of facilities, equipment, events and other details, the Special Olympics committee is also coordinating volunteers to support various aspects of the games ranging from set up and tear down of the facilities, event assistants and people to cheer on the athletes.

"We have been really lucky to have support for these games throughout the Kanto Plain," said Sergeant Morey. "Right now we have members of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force, Boy and Girl Scouts of America and military members, dependents and civilians volunteering from bases including Atsugi, Yokosuka and Camp Zama. We usually have around 2,000 volunteers total—about a 50/50 mix of Americans and Japanese working together to make this event happen."

The committee will rely on volunteers to keep the games going from the start of set-up on May 12 at 8 a.m. at Yokota High School. Tear-down after the games ends around 4:30 p.m. May 14. They are also looking for certified lifeguards for Sunday's swimming events and folks to support the



photo by Val Gempis

**Yokota volunteers cheer with Special Olympics winners during May 2005.**

athletes by cheering them on for all events.

According to Sergeant Morey, volunteering with the Special Olympics here is a unique experience compared volunteering at other bases. "There are military members with handicapped children and it really brings more meaning to them than just participating in a hosted event. The support we can provide their children is something very unique to the Yokota family."

Members of Yokota have an advantage in being able to spend most of their time concentrating on logistics because the games are funded completely by donations.

"We don't have to do any fundraising for this event which serves as a testament to the support of these games by the private organizations on base and many organizations off-base," said Sergeant Tice-Baird.

To volunteer, contact Staff Sgt. Brenda Rancourt at [brenda.rancourt@yokota.af.mil](mailto:brenda.rancourt@yokota.af.mil).

*~There is no May 5th edition of the Fuji Flyer due to the annual Japanese holiday of Golden Week~*



## Assistance Fund campaign continues

By Staff Sgt.  
Karen J. Tomasik  
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Since Yokota began its Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) campaign March 27, base members have already exceeded the monetary goal by 111 percent, raising \$53,593 so far.

While contributions have been very high, overall participation has been exceedingly low, with only 22 percent participation.

"We are very happy that people have donated as much as they have this year," said Capt. Sarah Mountain, base AFAF coordinator. "Participation

from the community is very important, especially when considering Yokota received a return of \$186,986 when we donated just over \$93,000 to the campaign last year."

The largest beneficiary of the AFAF is the Air Force Aid Society. Money came back to Yokota as Air Force aid for programs like emergency assistance, the Give-Parents-a-Break program for spouses of deployed members, child care for moving families and volunteers, bundles for babies, wellness programs, phone cards for deployed members, HeartLink for new military spouses and tuition assistance.

Base members can also choose to donate to three other charities through the AFAF:

-Air Force Enlisted Villages; ([www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org))

-Air Force Villages ([www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com));

-LeMay Foundation ([www.lemayfoundation.org](http://www.lemayfoundation.org));

For more information on how the AFAS benefits Airmen serving on active duty, in the Reserve or National Guard, those who are retired, as well as families and surviving spouses of deceased Airmen, visit [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

"Unit representatives have handed out contribution booklets and forms throughout their units," said Captain Mountain. "We would like everyone to consider donating to one or several of these organizations since they directly benefit Air Force members."

The base's AFAF campaign ends May 5.

For more information or to make a donation to the campaign this year, call 225-5908.

### Softball series up to bat for AFAF

The 374th Airlift Wing Command Post is hosting their first-ever annual Samurai Series softball tournament at Wilkins Field starting May 5 at 6 p.m., ending in a championship game May 7 at noon.

The AFAF will have a table set up at the games for anyone wishing to make a last-minute donation. A portion of the tournament proceeds go to the campaign.

All military and local national teams must sign up through the Yokota Fitness Center. The entry fee is \$175 per team and can be paid by cash or check. Teams can also call 225-7720 for van rental at \$65 per day.

For more information or to volunteer to help, call Tech. Sgt. Autumn Christner at 225-2602.

## Victims offered different reporting options

### Restricted, unrestricted choices allow flexibility for sexual assault victims

By Capt. Joseph Green  
374th Airlift Wing

Under the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, reporting procedures have changed dramatically and the DoD wants to ensure its people know the reporting options available to them – restricted and unrestricted.

The restricted reporting option is available to active duty military members and members of the Reserve component performing federal duty or in Title 10 status.

Confidentiality represents the most significant change in the sexual assault policy, and it addresses a major barrier to reporting. Many victims are not

emotionally prepared for a criminal investigation due to fear, embarrassment, shame, and a sense of violation following an assault. Restricted reporting provides a viable reporting option to those who in the past have foregone medical care to avoid being involved in a criminal investigation.

Restricted reporting allows victims to confidentially receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation or notifying their command. This reporting option provides victims with more control over the release of their personal information and affords them additional time to weigh their options and seek guidance about whether or not to participate in a criminal investigation.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Victim Advocate is responsible for advising the victim of the reporting options available to him or her, explaining the benefits and

limitations of each, the exceptions that can apply to restricted reporting and documenting the reporting option the victim selects.

The unrestricted reporting option is available to military members, U.S. civilians and dependents consistent with their legal status. Victims who desire treatment and support, as well as an investigation, can select unrestricted reporting. This reporting option follows the protocol used previously including medical treatment, counseling, command authority notification and investigation.

By increasing a victim's reporting options and improving a victim's access to services, the DoD hopes to create a "climate of confidence" in which service members will trust that the system will respond appropriately when they report a sexual assault and support their recovery.

For more information, call the base SARC office at 225-4028.

## Birth announcements

**Feb. 18** – Chase Shouta Capps, eight-pound, 13-ounce son of Ayaka and Daniel Capps.

**Feb. 20** – Marissa Elaine King, seven-pound, 14-ounce daughter of Tammi and Esequiel King.

**Feb. 23** – Alexzander Julian Soto, six-pound, four-ounce son of Joanna and Shane Soto.

**Feb. 25** – Kimora Naomi Mitchell, seven-pound, eight-ounce daughter of Gina and Michael Mitchell.

**Feb. 25** – Caleb Luke Monzon Pacificar, seven-pound, 10-ounce son of Priscilla and Crispin Pacificar.

**March 7** – Aydin Kole Duggan, nine-pound, three-ounce son of Misty and Daniel Duggan.

**March 15** – Kayla Akari Robinson, six-pound, three-ounce daughter of Kaoru and Quincy Robinson.

**March 21** – Rowan Kathryn Downer, six-pound, four-ounce daughter of Robyn and Jeremy Downer.

**March 22** – Cameron Jace Smith, seven-pound, 13-ounce son of Andrea and Corey Smith.

**March 24** – Jadon Scott Storer, eight-pound son of Julie and Patrick Storer.

**March 26** – Parker Stephen Ballard, six-pound, 15-ounce son of Jennifer and Jacob Ballard.

**March 29** – Gabrielle "Gabby" Lanae Elise Schmidt, seven-pound, eight-ounce daughter of Angela and Eric Schmidt.

**March 30** – James Brandon Ray, seven-pound, three-ounce son of Elisa and Anthony Ray.

**April 3** – Jake Thomas Jessee, eight-pound, four-ounce son of Lynsey and Jason Jessee.

(Courtesy of 374th Medical Group)

## Nihon-go now

⇒ **Golden Week is today through May 8.**  
Go-ruden weeku wakyou kara go-gatsu youka made desu.  
(goo-loo-deh-n wee-koo wah kee-yoo kah-lah go-gah-t-soo yooh-kah mah-deh dess.)

⇒ **Traveling takes longer during Golden Week.**  
Go-ruden weeku chu wa koutsuunijikan ga kakarimasu.  
(goo-loo-deh-n wee-koo chooh wah kooh-t-soo nee jee-kah-n gah kah-kah-lee-mah-ss.)

# AD

## Asian Pacific American heritage month spotlights ‘dreams, challenges’

*Events include cultural show, volleyball tournament, cooking demonstrations to recognize contributions by ethnic groups*

**By Senior Master Sgt. Freddy Estacion**  
374th Services Division

Yokota is celebrating Asian Pacific American heritage during May.

Numerous events are planned to recognize the “Dreams and Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans.”

Heritage month committee wants the month to celebrate the collective accomplishments of many ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, histories, languages

and cultures. It also allows Americans of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage the opportunity to share their pride and showcase their rich culture and history.

A ribbon and cake cutting ceremony will be held Monday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Yokota Community Center.

The Samurai Cafe is hosting speciality meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Asian Pacific origins.

An Asian Pacific American heritage cultural show featuring songs, dances and food samples

will be at the Yokota High School gym May 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many on-base and off-base groups will perform.

The base library will show the movie “Go For Broke” from 6 to 9 p.m. May 12, along with many displays and artifacts to help raise awareness about the heritage month. A discussion will follow the movie.

A 5K run will be held May 16 beginning at 7 a.m. at Yokota Field. Participants will receive free t-shirts, bananas, and bottled water.

Community members can experience Asian Pacific cuisine May 20 at the base commissary when the committee hosts a cooking demonstration. Selections include foods from the Philippines, Hawaii, Korea, Guam and Japan.

A volleyball tournament is scheduled for May 21 behind the Samurai Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Teams and individuals are encouraged to participate.

The heritage month’s committee is also working with the Department of Defense Dependent

Schools here to sponsor an essay writing contest.

The Asian Pacific American celebration culminates in a luncheon May 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The keynote speaker is U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Jung Lawrence, Coast Guard deputy commander for Japan.

For more information about the events, community members can contact 1st Lt. Sean Setter (225-1677; [sean.setter@yokota.af.mil](mailto:sean.setter@yokota.af.mil)) or Master Sgt. George Johnson (225-7024; [george.johnson@yokota.af.mil](mailto:george.johnson@yokota.af.mil)).

## Sponsors held accountable for their guests

**By Staff Sgt. Carlos Dupaty**  
374th Security Forces Squadron

Recently the base has seen rising numbers of people not fulfilling their responsibilities as sponsors when they sign guests on base.

For a 24-hour base pass, guests must be signed on by a SOFA-status community member more than 18 years old, with no more than 10 guests being signed on by one person.

Japanese guests must show one official picture identification.

All other guests must present a picture ID, and a passport or alienation card. Some third-state country nationalities must sub-

mit an approval letter to the local Office of Special Investigations detachment.

Sponsors must take their guests to the Visitor Control Center to check in their guests with the security forces squadron. Sponsors must stay with their guests at all times while the guests are on base.

Sponsors must also ensure their guests’ passes are turned back into the visitor control center as their guests depart the base. The passes should be turned in prior to when it expires.

For information regarding passes over 24 hours or house guest passes, call the base Pass and Registration office at 225-8932, or visit their office, located in Bldg. 316 on the first floor.

## Hospital accreditation team visits base

**By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik**  
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Yokota’s health care providers will be evaluated May 15 to 19 by a national accreditation group – and base residents have been invited to talk with the evaluators.

As part of the accreditation process for the 374th Medical Group, residents will be able to meet with representatives from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Commission representatives will evaluate the medical group’s compliance with national standards to determine whether the group will be accredited.

The field-representative evaluators will be

available for scheduled interviews.

Interview requests must be made in writing to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins.

The request also must show the nature of the information to be provided.

Address requests to: Division of Accreditation Operations, Account Representative, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 1 Renaissance Blvd., Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., 60181.

Residents may also contact the Joint Commission at 800-994-6610. Requests may also be faxed to 630-792-5636 or e-mailed to [complaint@jcaho.org](mailto:complaint@jcaho.org) to express concerns about safety or quality of care.

Learn more at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

# AD



# Integrity – core value with a tough reality

By Maj. Trevor Gray  
374th Maintenance Squadron

As a military service, our lives and the lives of others are dependent upon how good we are. Failure is not an option.

With our continued success, we will continue to live in freedom. Freedom to chose our nation's leaders and vote them out if we do not like the job they have done. Freedom to worship as we please, or not at all. Freedom to move throughout the country and the world. Freedom to choose our wives or husbands as long as they will accept us.

But, as they say, freedom is not free. Failure is not an option.

Throughout history, a losing military is enslaved or destroyed.

Especially as a military, we truly live in a results-oriented society — no breaks, no excuses, no alibis. Either you made the mission happen, get an

“outstanding” rating or two, or you did not. From the lowest levels to the highest, we should be graded on the results that we attain. That is what we do, and how we should be rated.

One of the foundations of our success has been our unwavering, unshakeable and undeniable adherence to our first core value — integrity first.

Integrity has been the foundation of the profession of arms since the Neanderthals picked up a rock. While simple in concept, integrity is much more difficult in deed. Simply put, integrity is simply doing the right thing regardless of the circumstance or situation. As I am getting ready to move to my next base, I sit and reflect upon my command and my stay here. Doing the right thing is just plain hard.

One part of integrity is simply being honest and truthful. While we are all emotional beings, do you put your emotions aside when you

are writing performance reports and giving awards? Or do you simply give them to those in your favor?

We are a results oriented society. Each and every one of you is protecting all of our freedoms. Do you want the best to protect us, or the boss' favorite? Hold the standard high and do what is right. Like your mother used to say — be honest, tell the truth, and do not hang around with those bad boys.

Have integrity. Do the right thing. We are a tight knit, interdependent, interwoven society; and we must hold integrity in high regard. We must have it, enforce it and cherish it. Like a chain, we are only as strong as our weakest link. As supervisors and leaders, it is incumbent upon us to uphold the highest standards and hold everyone to the ideals which made our country free. Those who are unwilling or unable to adhere to our premier

core value are ineligible to work in the profession of arms.

Remember, freedom is not free.

From the beginning of time, the profession of arms has been the most honorable of professions. The fundamental premise that you can be called upon to give your life to protect the lives and freedoms of others makes what we do so esteemed, so valued, and held in such high regard.

Are you willing to do the right thing, irregardless of the consequences? Are you willing to put your career on the line, simply because it is right? Do you have implicit trust in those above and around you?

Integrity. It is the bedrock of our profession. Without integrity, your troops simply will not follow you if you have given up your responsibility as a leader and forfeited your opportunity to lead and serve. No integrity, no leadership. Stand squarely, stand tall, and stand with integrity.



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The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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## Chief's Corner

### Successful behavior means making right decisions, looking out for Wingmen

By Chief Master Sgt. Kevin White  
374th Security Forces Squadron

Fellow Airmen and community members, it is a great pleasure to work with people who take professionalism and their military careers seriously.

I feel confident in saying one of our key reasons for being in the military is to be successful. Something we don't do just for ourselves, but also for our family members back home who continuously boast about our outstanding service.

To be honest, as a security forces member, I would like to see people perform on- and off- duty in a manner where security forces is never called upon except to protect Airmen against hostile threats.

Yet, sometimes some of us make unprofessional decisions that defeats our ultimate purpose for being in the military, and that makes me sad as a leader. Making unwise on- and off-duty decisions like being insubordinate to superiors, assaulting people, shoplifting, drinking under age, driving under the influence of alcohol, maintaining unprofessional

relationships, participating in domestic violence, using illegal drugs, becoming intoxicated and disorderly, and even more sinister crimes like child molestation and murder works to damage us professionally and can bring shame upon our squadrons, groups, wing and service.

I remember being a young noncommissioned officer in the late 1980s and reading about a soldier who murdered people he did not even know in Fayetteville, N.C., as part of some domestic group ritual. One of the victims happened to be a young lady who graduated high school with me. Imagine for a moment how this incident made the military look.

If you are the friend of a person who is about to make an unwise decision that will affect their career, you do have the power to intervene. In today's Air Force, we call this the Wingman concept. In security forces, I have learned that few people commit crimes in secret; someone else normally has heard the plan or may be part of the crime. Therefore, we should take this concept to heart and implement it at every opportunity we get. This

could be stopping some criminal act before it occurs or briefing Airmen upfront in hopes they follow your sound leadership direction.

It is up to each military individual regardless of service to make decisions that will ensure their military career is successful. Yes, it is our responsibility as adults to continuously demonstrate successful behavior, on- and off- duty. The end result is we will obtain our military goals and put ourselves in a position to enhance our future careers as civilian employees. Now is the time to keep our heads in the game, because as the service draws down the active duty force, more civilian government positions will become available, and former military personnel who are college educated and have obtained honorable discharges due to successful behavior may be first in line.

Always remember to do the right thing. It benefits our entire community and makes mom and dad continuously proud. Who wants to be the person to explain to mother why they were dishonorably discharged? The parents will probably carry a heavier burden than the military child. Who wants this?

## Action Line

**E-mail: [action.lines-1@yokota.af.mil](mailto:action.lines-1@yokota.af.mil)**

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

**Col. Scott Goodwin**

374th Airlift Wing Commander



## DUI Prevention

April 19 – April 25	0
Total DUIs in April	1
Total in 2006	4

### Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

**Don't  
drink and drive.  
Call 225-RIDE!**



# Taking off for off-base day trip?

## *Tachikawa city nearby, offers natural attractions, shopping*

By Jennifer Hensley  
Fuji Flyer contributor

Looking to get away? Well, you don't have to go far to have fun in Japan.

Located just minutes from Yokota Air Base is Tachikawa, a unique urban oasis that offers visitors plenty to see and do.

Tachikawa is a city with a split personality. One side of the city boasts a large commercial center, complete with high-end department stores and the other end is home to Showa Memorial Park, a beautiful recreational area that features botanical gardens, bicycle paths, lakes and pools.

The city itself has evolved over the years. It began as a small village until the introduction of a railway in the late 1800s. After World War II, it became known as "the town of the base" to the locals because of Tachikawa Air Base. Once the base closed, the municipal government used the land to create the industrial center that is now the heart of the city.

**Tachikawa city is a 20-minute train ride from the Fussa Station to Tachikawa Station. The cost is approximately \$3 round trip depending on the day's yen rate. People should take the Ome and Chou Line, heading toward Hajima, Tachikawa, Shinjuku and Tokyo after buying their train ticket at Fussa Station. Driving directions are also available through the Yujo Recreation Center. Drivers should take into consideration traffic and weather conditions.**



photos by Jennifer Hensley

Visitors who love to shop will find that Tachikawa offers an abundance of clothing and retail stores. From large department centers to small mom-and-pop style stores, shoppers' wallets – and legs – could get quite a workout. Most of the stores are connected through an intricate system of walkways. Not only do they offer a birds-eye view, but they make it easy to cross busy streets without dodging traffic.

Just west of the city lights, nestled among miles of green grass, fragrant flowers and bountiful lakes and streams is Showa Memorial Park. The park is more like a nature sanctuary than a playground, although it does offer plenty of opportunity for amusement.

Established in honor of Emperor Showa's reign, the park encompasses more than 340 acres of fields, flowers and designated sports facilities. Not only does it offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, it serves as a refuge for both humans and animals alike.



photo by Airman 1st Class Joann White

**Showa Memorial Park is a popular destination in Tachikawa city. The park features numerous types of trees, flowers and amusement areas that both children and adults can enjoy. The park is open all year.**

Open year-round, the park is divided into four zones and features unique attractions no matter what the weather.

Zone A consists of the main entrance and an exhibition park. It is also home to the main bicycle rental facility, important for cycling enthusiasts who want to cruise the 11-kilometer bicycle trail that runs the perimeter of the park.

Most of Zone B is made up of Waterfowl Lake. The lake's residents include boaters, rare birds and wild animals. A bird sanctuary is nestled on the banks of the river, and visitors can study the feathered creatures with binoculars and bird guides available free of charge. Perhaps the most popular feature of Zone B is the water play land, an expanse of pools, slides, and water fountains that help visitors keep cool during

the hot summer months.

A large open field takes up most of Zone C and on any given day, visitors can be seen reading, painting or even sleeping on the lush lawns. Sports enthusiasts can hone their skills in horseshoes, mini golf and even croquet in the designated sports area. This area also features a dragonfly marsh, home to 18 different species of the insect.

Zone D is known as the "forest zone" and just as the name implies, there are more trees in this section of the park than in any other. The Japanese Garden is located here and includes a traditional tea house. Just west of the gardens is the Children's Forest, home to a sweet shop, a woodworking center and even a children's medical facility. The most fascinating feature of this section is what is known as

"Foggy Woods." Meant to inspire imagination, fog machines blast clouds of fog into the air periodically during the day.

Traveling to Tachikawa is as easy as discovering the world of opportunity the city provides. From the Fussa train station, Tachikawa is only about a 20-minute train ride, and depending on the yen rate, costs about three dollars round trip. For those who prefer to travel by car, getting there is relatively painless. Of course, traffic is always a consideration so plan accordingly if driving. Detailed maps can be found at the Yujo Recreation Center.

For more information about the city of Tachikawa, visit [www.city.tachikawa.tokyo.jp](http://www.city.tachikawa.tokyo.jp).

For admission information and details about Showa Memorial Park, log onto [www.showapark.jp](http://www.showapark.jp).

# AD



## Off base

### Okutama Cherry Blossoms:

More than 10,000 trees around Okutama Lake will begin blooming at the end of April and beginning of May.

**8th International Rose and Garden Show:** The Invoice Seibu Dome is hosting this annual show May 15 to 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is located off the Seibu Ikebukuro Line's Seibu Kyu-jo Mae. The cost is 2,000 yen per an adult.

**Tokyo Minato Festival:** People can celebrate the sea at the Harumi Futo, the pier that opens into the Pacific Ocean in Tokyo, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is a bus ride from the Tokyo Metro subway's Yuraku-cho station.

**Seibu Train Festa 2006:** The Musashigaoka Sharyo Kenshu-jo, or train vehicle maintenance factory, is opening its doors for people to see and experience their trains, vehicles and facilities June 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is a 12-minute walk from the Seibu Ikebukuro Line's Ko-rai station.

## On base

### Movies

**Today** – *Date Movie*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Freedomland*, R, 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday** – *Eight Below*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Date Movie*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Freedomland*, R, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

**Sunday** – *Eight Below*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Freedomland*, R, 7 p.m.

**Monday** – *Freedomland*, R, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday** – *Date Movie*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** – *Eight Below*, PG, 7 p.m.

**Thursday** – *Freedomland*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

### Special duties

The Air Education and Training Command is holding briefings about special duties including military training instructors and leaders, technical training instructors

and professional military education instructors. The briefing is May 4 at the Enlisted Club at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### Commissary closed

The base commissary will be closed May 8 and 9 for its annual inventory.

### Punk music show

The Enlisted Club is hosting a punk rock show tonight at 8 p.m. featuring the Megababes and a special guest. The show is free for club members, and \$5 for nonmembers.

### NAF sale

The 374th Services Division is hosting a NAF (non-appropriated funds) sale at Bldg. 4084 near the Par 3 Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items includes furniture, televisions, art, and outdoor sports equipment.

### Case lot sale

The base commissary is having a case lot sale May 20 and 21.

### Project Graduation

The Yokota High School's Project Graduation committee\* is holding a meeting May 10 at 5 p.m. at the base library.

### Art auction

The Semper Fi Society\* is hosting an art auction at the Yujo Recreation Center Saturday. Pre-bidding begins at 3 p.m., and the auction starts at 4 p.m.

### Summer hire

The annual summer hire program begins June 26 and ends August 18. Applications are accepted through Tuesday, and are available through the schools. Call 225-3921 or 225-3935, or visit the Civilian Personnel Office in Bldg. 316 located on the second floor, room 217.

### Central Texas College

Central Texas College is holding registration for Term 5 from May 22 to June 2 for aircraft maintenance, criminal justice and special education. Call 225-9133.

### Change of command

The 374th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a change of command ceremony May 23 at Bldg. 907 at 10 a.m.

### East gas station

The gas station near the Natatorium opens today at 4 p.m. Attended hours are Mondays through Fridays from 6 to 8 a.m., and 4 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 to 10 a.m., and 4 to 6 p.m.

### Texas Hold 'Em

The Enlisted Club is hosting a Texas Hold 'Em tournament May 6 at 3 p.m. It is free to participate in the tournament. The Vegas-style buffet is optional. Call 227-8820.

### Mother's Day show

A free Japanese culture show is scheduled for May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Yujo Recreation Center.

### Yokota Singles

All base singles are invited to a free dinner and Bible study beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. A free coffee bar is also open every Friday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for all singles in the same building.

### Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts\* need volunteers to help teach the members crafts and to serve as a chairperson. Call 227-3638.

### Samurai Cafe

The Samurai Cafe, the base's military dining facility, now offers free wireless internet.

### Tuition assistance

Spouse tuition assistance for Term V must be turned in by May 5 to the base training and education flight in Bldg. 316. Call 225-7337.

### College scholarships

The Air Force Clubs are offering scholarships for club members and their families. Applications are available at the clubs.

## Samurai Warrior



## of the Week



**Airman 1st Class  
Bonnie Sgroi**

Airman 1st Class Bonnie Sgroi, 36th Airlift Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of a duty to defend the one of one's name and guild; sincerity and respect for one's word of honor; and a sense of justice and honesty.

Airman Sgroi is an Aviation Resource Management Apprentice. She tracks more than 5,600 aircrew ground and flight training requirements, overseas data input into a central database, and monitors the executing of the squadron flying hour program.

Her efforts culminated in the successful deployment of the wing's first C-130 mission supporting the global war on terror.

### School registration

Yokota High School is hosting a mandatory registration week for all Department of Defense Dependents Schools here Monday through May 5 at the high school's DSO training lab from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Tours

The Yokota ITT is offering trips to destinations including amusement parks in Tokyo; the Shiraito Waterfall and Mount Fuji; a sumo tournament in Tokyo; and the Nikko Spring Festival. Call 225-7083.

### BET All Stars

The Enlisted Club is hosting a comedy show with Spike Davis, Curtis Arsenal, Tony Woods and Tiffany Haddish May 14 beginning at 9 p.m. It is for adults only. Call 227-8820.

### Home schooling

The Yokota Homeschoolers Association\* is hosting a curriculum fair May 6 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Family Support Center. It is open to the base community.

### Tax center open

The base tax center is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. People filing 1040EZ forms can walk-in hours Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 225-4926.

### Chapel Schedule

**Traditional (West) Chapel**  
*Catholic:* Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

*Protestant:* Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

**Contemporary (East) Chapel**  
*Protestant:* Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

### PO disclaimer

An asterisk (\*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

# AD

## “Quotes” & Things

*“He’s got a nutritionist,  
and I’ve got room  
service.”*

**George Foreman,  
on the difference  
between his and  
Evander Holyfield’s  
training techniques**

**Samurai Triathlon:** Interested community members can sign up for the Samurai Triathlon, scheduled on the wing’s annual sports day May 12 beginning at 5:45 a.m. It includes a 500-meter swim, two-mile bike, and 2.2-mile run. Call 225-8322.

**Dance Troupe:** Community members can learn a variety of dancing from expert instructors including ballet; song and dance; tap and ballet; jazz and hip hop; tap and jazz; or ballet lyrical with lessons at the Taiyo Recreation Center. Call 225-6955.

**Yoga:** Yoga lessons are offered at the Taiyo Recreation center Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 a month.

**Boxing:** Former boxing champion Rick Roberts teaches classes at the Taiyo Recreation Center to adults and young adults. Call 225-6955 for class times and to register.

**National Infant Immunization Week:** April 22 to 29 is recognized as National Infant Immunization Week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Parents can pick up a standard childhood immunization schedule from the base pediatric clinic or from their healthcare provider. Call the pediatric clinic at 225-8864.

### Moonlight golfing

Children here watch as a team of Japanese traditional dancers as they perform a Samurai dance on the putting area of the Par 3 April 21. The 374th Services Division hosts Moonlight Golf regularly, and it features activities for both youth and adults. Young golfers can enjoy performances such as the Samurai dance; play games such as stop and go; and learn golfing techniques from the Par 3’s professional team. Adults can also learn from the professionals; enjoy a putting competitions; product demonstrations by top golfing brand names; and time with fellow golfers. For more information, call 225-3308.



photo by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

## Semiannual mountain biking race set for May 13

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas  
Editor

From the veteran rider and the novice, mountain bikers around the Kanto Plain are invited to the Tour de Tama XVIII May 13 at Tama Hills.

Any Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) members or identification card-holding base employees can sign up for the race, but riders must be at least 14 years old to participate.

According Mr. Yoshimasa Nakamura, Outdoor Recreation Center representative, the race is designed with fun in mind.

“It is not a very hard course,” he explained. “The course is a very nice ride meant for beginners and intermediate-level riders with only one difficult area.”

That area is called the double dip. Located in the last half of the course, it is one steep hill immediately followed by another steep hill. An “escape” path is near the double dip, allowing

riders who do not wish to go down the hill to bypass it.

Riders can sign up in one of these classes: rookie; men’s open; women’s open; men’s 35 and older; or men’s expert.

All the classes will ride two laps on the course except the men’s expert class, which must do four laps. Each lap is about five kilometers, and can take 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three placing riders in each category. Drawings will also be held for items including a mountain bike frame, tires and apparel.

The cost is \$25 a rider, and includes a steak lunch and t-shirt. If riders bring their bike with them to the Outdoor Recreation Center when they sign up for the race, they receive a \$5 discount. Riders can also rent equipment, including mountain bikes and helmets, from Outdoor Recreation for \$9 a day.

“We encourage people to come out for the race,” said Mr. Nakamura. “It is a great time to ride during spring, and the Japanese riders who will be there are very kind. They are happy to help people out and teach them what they know. They look forward to riding with Americans.”

The Outdoor Recreation Center also offers numerous mountain biking trips to off-base locations including Gunma Prefecture, Fujima Panorama and Mt. Rokudo.

For more information, call 225-4552 or visit the center, located directly beside the main base shoppette.



photo by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

**Above, mountain bikers follow through one of the more narrow paths at Tama Hills during the November 2005 Tour de Tama. Left, riders relax as they wait to wash off their bikes during the November 2004 race. The race is held every spring and fall.**



photo by Val Gempis

# AD